

DAIL Advisory Board Meeting Conference Call - 03/13/14

Attendees:

Board Members: Janet Cramer, Nancy Brieden, Nick McCardle, Harriet Goodwin, Peter Cobb, Steve Pouliot, Beth Stern, Diane Novak, Robert Borden, Linda Berger, Nancy Lang, Gini Milkey

Guests: Jackie Majoros, Kristin Murphy,

State Employees: Stuart Schurr, Lisa Parro, Susan Wehry, Mary Woodruff

Review of Meeting Minutes from January 9th

- Add Janet Cramer to the attendee list
- Page 6, Topics for the year should say “Potential topics for calendar year 2014 (not discussed):”

Meeting minutes for January 9th are approved once the above changes are made.

Older Americans Month: “Safe Today. Healthy Tomorrow.” - Mary Woodruff

“Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow” is the theme of Older Americans Month this year, which is celebrated in the month of May throughout the country.

Older adults are more at risk for injury. Approximately 6 million older adults were treated for injuries last year with more than 30,000 deaths. There are 5 categories of injuries that are being focused on during Older Americans Month: suffocation, medication overdose, fire and burns, falls, and motor vehicle accidents. The theme for Older Americans Month is to help raise awareness of the causes of injury, and provide resources and ideas of what can be done to help prevent injuries. There are two posters available on the Administration of Community Living (ACL) website that can be used during Older Americans Month, as well as a sample article and other resources.

Mary would like to charge the Board with identifying partners, organizations, and individual activities that support the prevention of injuries and raise awareness of unintentional injuries. For example, strength trainings and/or balance trainings to help prevent falls. Board members should contact Mary with any questions or any ideas they may have in which the department may assist. Mary will follow-up at the DAIL Advisory Board meeting next month.

DAIL Advisory Board Updates

The last Imagine the Future Task Force meeting was cancelled. At the next meeting, concerns with the accountable care organizations and long term care will be discussed.

There is a newspaper article about long term care Medicaid in the home. Nancy will forward this to Lisa to distribute to the Board.

Legislative bills:

- S.23, An act relating to access to records in Adult Protective Services investigations. This bill will enable investigators and police access to financial records of abuse. The Commissioner testified on this bill a couple of days ago, and Alice Kennedy, DAIL's General Counsel, is testifying before the committee now. DAIL has asked the committee to consider privacy concerns, financial or medical, of the alleged victim, whenever possible. COVE and DAIL are in agreement with the bill.
- H. 629, An act relating to elevators. This bill is changing the law in the redevelopment of smaller sites, changing the requirement for elevators to upper floors at 3,000 square feet or more (currently it is 1,000 square feet or more). The bill is not moving this session, and the chair has asked for conversations with the VT Access Board. DAIL has alerted David Sagi, DAIL ADA Coordinator, about this bill and SILC has sent a letter of dismay to the Legislature. Sarah Launderville has further information about this.
- S.252, An act relating to financing for Green Mountain Care. The amendment carved out federal employees; however, they could have a buy-in. COVE is concerned that this bill is premature; however, this bill is not moving forward.

Commissioner Wehry's Updates

Budget Testimony

DAIL's budget testimony has been marked up in House Appropriations, and notes from that markup indicate that the Developmental Services (DS) section of the budget is considered closed. The Committee was satisfied with the DS caseload projections and this was signed off by the Joint Fiscal Office, a new process for the DS and Choices for Care budgets.

The other parts of the DAIL budget are under discussion. The House Ways and Means Committee has not looked favorably at the Governor's budget in revenues, so it is looking for places in the budget in which to fill this hole. One section that has been reviewed was the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Program. The Committee was looking at the possibility of the Veterans Administration (VA) funding Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program participants; however, DAIL reviewed all of the TBI program participants and there are no participants in the program that are Veterans who could be served by the VA. This was reported back to the Legislature, and no changes were made to the TBI Budget.

The language in the bill regarding spending of Choices for Care (CFC) reinvestment funds requires approval by the Legislature. DAIL requested reinvestment funds for the meals program, focused efforts on serving the CFC Care Moderate Needs Group, and asked to keep \$2M plus in reserve to prevent a waiting list for CFC High Needs Group. This was supported by the DAIL Advisory Board and approved by the Legislature. The additional language also states that if the funding in reserve is not needed, DAIL is authorized, though not required, to spend up to \$1M in FY14 and 15 on one-time investments that directly benefit eligible CFC enrollees and HCB providers. The Commissioner has identified two specific areas as priority targets for these investments if available: a one-time investment of roughly \$300,000 in the reserve to the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) to help the waitlist at VCIL for home modifications, affecting about 20-30 individuals. This funding would move CFC participants closer to the top of the list for modifications, which would allow these individuals to live independently. Funding by the Housing Conservation could be used for non-CFC individuals and new people coming through the door. Assistive Technology is another area which the Commissioner has identified as a high priority target for additional investments. (See copy of the memo sent to Martha Health.)

The Board would like further information about the home modification process before determining whether it would support the Commissioner's proposal to distribute funding to VCIL: Who would determine which individuals get the funding? Are there other agencies that pay for home modifications other than VCIL? Is there an approved list of contractors who are familiar with ADA building requirements for multiple types of disabilities, or does VCIL work with contractors to be sure work is completed correctly? What is the VCIL process for getting home modifications completed? The Commissioner will research this information and ask Sarah Launderville, or her representative, to attend the next Board meeting to address some of the questions.

The Board would like to see a systematic way in which decisions will be made about any CFC reinvestment funds. The House Appropriations Committee is crafting some language asking DAIL to submit a report in October with a gap analysis. The Commissioner will research this further and bring the information back to the Board.

Choices for Care/Moderate Needs Group (MNG)

A raised allocation for Home Health providers and Adult Day providers allows 400+ people on waiting lists prior to January 2014 to be served. This month, trainings on MNG Flexible Spending will take place. Megan Tierney-Ward will be working with case management agencies (i.e. home health and AAA agencies) about individuals choosing any agency for homemaker services and real options counseling. This will allow more consumer-directed spending. The Commissioner would like to thank the MNG Flexible Spending workgroup, which included representatives from AAA, Adult Day, and Home Health agencies.

Commission on Successful Aging

The Governor convened a Commission on Successful Aging to address three items: the mature workforce; healthcare reform; and livable communities. (Please see page 4 and 5 of the January DAIL Advisory Board meeting minutes.)

The Mature Worker Subcommittee was the first to create a report of recommendations and submit it to the Governor. The subgroup is trying to change the thought process of ‘too bad all the young people are leaving Vermont’ to ‘isn’t it great to have all these mature workers in Vermont?’. The Governor has charged the Agency of Commerce and Community Development with an employer recognition program that recognizes, and is a role model for, businesses which recruit and retain mature workers. The State of Vermont Department of Human Resources (DHR) is charged with reviewing the policies and procedures for the State to be sure we are modeling the best practices for mature workers, and DHR will follow-up with the Vermont State Employees Association. The Commissioners of DAIL and the Department of Labor are charged with optimizing and broadening relationships with the Association for Training and Development to improve training, services, recruiting, and resources. Other organizations and partners will be brought into the conversations as things progress.

The challenge of insurance companies and mature workers was raised by the Board.

The two other Commission subcommittees will continue their work putting together reports and recommendations for the Governor. The Healthcare Reform Subcommittee is planning to submit its report in the fall.

Stuart now oversees the Commission on Successful Aging, and Toby Young has been appointed as the chair. Will Rowe now oversees the Commission on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders.

Annual Adult Protective Services (APS) Report

The Annual APS Report was completed in February and has been sent to the Board and posted on the APS website. A few questions/comments by the Board: It would be helpful to know the type of residence in which the allegation took place; it would be helpful to have the numbers of allegations on Charts 3 and 4 (they are given on the other charts); it would be helpful to know the outcomes of the trainings that have been completed, and how these outcomes are being measured. The Commissioner will follow-up on these inquiries.

The Commissioner will bring information from the January APS Panel report to the next meeting.

AHS Scorecard

AHS just launched a new AHS Scorecard tool that allows people to see results-based accountability and clarity on how Vermont is doing. The link to the Scorecard has been sent to the Board; however, DAIL was notified that Internet Explorer (IE) 10 is needed to fully utilize the site. Licenses for the tool are being obtained for DAIL staff this summer; further information for DAIL is not able to be posted on the site until that time. The Commissioner would like the Board to review the scorecard and bring any questions, comments, and input to the next Board meeting.

Agenda item for next month: Discuss an annual meeting date in which to review the conflict of interest information for the Ombudsman.